

Little River Chapter Newsletter

Editor
Joe Hatton



Sept 2007
www.lrcctu.org

Next Meeting

It's time for some R&R. We are moving the location & **time** of this month's meeting to **6:30 P.M.** on September 27th at River John's Island at 4134 Cave Mill Road, turn right off Wildwood Road as you cross the Little River. At this month's meeting we will have hamburgers, hot-dogs and chips so bring your appetite! Soft drinks will be provided, members need to bring their own extra refreshment. Please bring a lawn chair or something to sit on. Also pack your fly rod for some casting lessons. See the map and directions to River Johns on our chapter's web-page.

Stream work

September 21: Little River just upstream of Metcalf Bottoms picnic area

September 22: Large Stream Sample - Abrams Creek (Site 2 at the Falls parking lot) Plan on spending the day if at all possible. If folks are planning to come, they **MUST be at the gate to the loop Road no later than 7:30.** That Saturday is a bike morning but the rangers will escort us to the work site at 7:30. Please see the Chapter web-page for more details. This the only Saturday Stream Sample scheduled for this year.

November 17-18 : Bi-Monthly Acid Deposition Sample

Fishing Report

It is September and I'm ready for fall. I'm also ready for some rain. This has been a tough summer for trout fishing in East Tennessee, especially in the Smokies. Steve Moore told me a couple of months ago that this has been the driest year since the Park has been keeping records. One of my neighbors grew up on the Little River during the 1920's. He said he has never seen the Little River this low and that was over a month ago. He said the drought in the 1920's was worse but there were no large trees on the river banks due to logging. Now the trees are much larger and pull water from the streams. Ted Myers, Walter Babb and Bill Bolinger all of whom have been fishing in the Smokies over 40 years say they have not seen the rivers look this bad. Jack Gregory told me yesterday that he saw over fifty dead trout on the Little River a few days ago

And, August was hot, setting records throughout the Southeast. The heat meant more generation on our tailwaters so wade fishing was not an option much of the time. Fishing the tailwaters from a boat has been excellent. But, not many people have been fishing around here.

Fishing in the Smokies has been best in the higher elevations where the water is cooler. And, as I write this we are expecting a "cool down" this week with rain so hopefully by the time you get this newsletter the Smokies will

be providing better fishing opportunities. And TVA is generating less now since the demand for power has dropped. Fishing for smallmouth was pretty good this summer and it should improve with some rain. The tailwaters are fishing well and the Hiwassee stayed cool all summer which is unusual.

This is a great time of year to fish with terrestrials. I spotted a green inchworm on my truck this morning. I think I would use a Green Weenie today. There are a lot of ants and beetles running around and dropping into the water. The trout in the Park are still liking yellow dry flies. The Yellow Parachute Adams has been a good fly this year. Also, the Yellow Neversink Caddis has produced well.

I hope I can tell you next month that everything is back to normal.

Byron Begley

Slot Limit propose for the Clinch

Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency is proposing a slot limit for trout on the Clinch River. Anglers would be allowed keep seven fish, but none 14 to 20 inches long and only ones more than 20 inches. They believe that this management technique will help the overall trout fishing on the river. They are asking for comments and you may send yours by clicking on the link on the newsletter website. The Tennessee Wildlife Commission will vote on this regulation change in October. LUCRO (Landowners and Users of the Clinch River Organization) - is taking a stand against a proposed slot limit on trout from the Clinch River. In the early 1990's they defeated a proposed "quality trout zone" along the Clinch. TWRA had proposed a stretch of the river be limited to certain types of baits and be catch-and-release only, but fishermen and landowners banded together in opposition.

You can see how important your comments are, please make sure to send yours in. Your comments will be read by Frank Fiss who is in charge of the trout program in Tennessee. Your comments will also be passed on to the Wildlife Commissioners.

E-mail Address

I am currently updating the Newsletter e-mail list. If you are not getting a newsletter by e-mail please send me your e-mail address. The e-mail copy is in color and you will receive it about a week before the mail copy. I have had problems with my e-mail program this week and lost some of the more recent addresses that had been added over the summer. So please help me get the list back up-to-date by sending me your address.

Thanks

Joe



Trout Unlimited Tennessee License Plate

The TU TN Council voted unanimously to support the effort in ordering or selling the required 1,000 plates before the State of Tennessee will put the plate into production. Local TU chapters have been ask to help by asking their members to purchase the TU TN specialty plate to support conservation in Tennessee. The first year our Chapter will receive \$17.50 for conservation for each plate that is ordered by one our members or someone checking our chapter number, 644 on the license plate order form. Be sure to ask

your significant other if they would like this plate on their car too. When successful, Tennessee will be the only state other than Montana to have a TU license plate with a trout on it. We have a link that you can order your plate on the Chapter web-site or go to <http://www.tuplate.org>.

T. U. in Turmoil

In the July/October 2007 issue of Fly Rod and Reel they did a special report called "Will stream access split Trout Unlimited". Normally I don't try to sell magazines but I think everyone needs to read this article. As everybody has read Montana TU chapters entered two access fights, one being Bitterroot Valley and the second was in Ruby valley in 2004. In 2005 our TU president and CEO Charles Gauvin called for a prohibition on local chapters participation in access disputes. This promoted a strong reaction from folks in chapters and councils all over the country. A compromise was worked out in 2006. The policy established a Stream Access Work Group in which chapters and state councils would need to ask permission before participating in any access issues. In March of this year an abrupt proposal was made by Bob Teufel, the acting Chairman of TU's Board, to prohibit all TU Chapters and State councils from participating in any disputes over stream-access rights. Ten days after Teufel made his proposal the National Leadership Council produced a resolution that called the process by which the prohibition had been proposed "fatally flawed" and "poor governance". National TU leaders have envisioned a \$100 million capital campaign and stream-access disputes may be a hindrance to reaching that goal. Even though stream access is not explicitly mentioned in TU's mission statement it is still a great concern with a lot of the grassroots members. Please read the article to get the full story. If you are asking why

stream access is important to us in the Little River Chapter. Last month a local fisherman was fishing in Townsend when a landowner told him he was trespassing and called the police. When the police officer showed up the fisherman was told to exit the stream. I will have more on this and stream access in next months newsletter.

Fly of the Month

Charlie Boy Hopper Olive

Hook: TMC 100 #8
Thread: 3/0 Olive Monocord
Body: Olive 2mm Foam
Legs: Red Spanflex or Flexi-Floss
Underwing: Mottled Yellow Web Wing
Overwing: Natural Deer Hair
Eyes: Black Sharpie Marker



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The Little River Chapter of Trout Unlimited is a nonprofit volunteer organization that is committed to Protecting & Restoring Cold Water Resources and Watersheds in and around the Great Smoky Mountains National Park

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